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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 7:16pm
Subject: Microsoft

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January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing on the occasion of the Justice Department's public comment period on the Microsoft settlement. As an objective member of the technology industry with 35 years of experience, working with a competitive platform vendor (IBM) to the Windows operating system, it seems that this case developed as a naive attempt of politicians to placate the complaints of businesses (Sun, Oracle, Apple, etc.) in their districts that have failed to gain their desired market share in the software industry. The ensuing attempt at a break-up was a punch in the face to free enterprise by a government interfering where it doesn't belong, so I believe accepting this compromise would be a major step forward for getting this economy back on track and moving on from this horrible legal charade instigated by envious "losers". I have seen this "looser" attitude over and over in this industry. Microsoft has set a standard that most competitors don't like to compete against.

Though their rivals have mostly been victims of bad marketing strategies and/or mediocre products, Microsoft is planning to take several steps to level the playing field further. I believe they will offer the top 20 computer manufacturers with equal pricing for licenses of the Windows operating system without adding any restrictions on the distribution or promotion of competitive products, while allowing broad capabilities to arrange its platform with a custom combination of Microsoft and non-Microsoft software. They will also provide disclosure of their internal interfaces and server protocols to assist software developers in the design process.

As you can see with the above examples, Microsoft is making serious efforts to appease the rest of the marketplace. This is a company that has helped move our economy forward by helping hundreds of millions of consumers join the information age, and that should be respected with a measured judgment. Any further action would be unwarranted and more costly and difficult to implement, so please proceed with this very fair solution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dan Lucky

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